Puroik language

The **Puroik language**, Puroik people never themselves called **Sulung**, is a language spoken by the Puroik people of Arunachal Pradesh in India and of Lhünzê County, Tibet, in China. Puroik is a Kho-Bwa language.

Besides their own language, the Puroik also use Nishi, Hindi, and Assamese. Literacy is very low, at about 2%. Those who are literate use either the Bengali script, Devanagari or the Latin alphabet to write Puroik.

Puroik	
Sulung	
Region	Arunachal Pradesh
Ethnicity	Puroik people
Native speakers	20,000 (2011)[1]
Language family	Kho-Bwa (possibly Sino-Tibetan or a non-Sino-Tibetan phylum)
	■ Puroik
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	suv
Glottolog	puro1234 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/puro1234)[2]

Contents

Geographical distribution

Remsangpuia (2008:17) lists the following Puroik villages. The Puroik also live in Nyishi, Aka, and Miji areas.

- East Kameng District: Chayangtajo, Pipu, Pakke Kessang, Lada, Bameng, Seijosa, Seppa, Sawa, Khenewa, and Pipu-Dipu circles (about 70 villages)
- Kurung Kumey District: Koloriang, Sarli, Hurli, Nyopin, and Tali circles
- Papum Pare District
- West Kameng District

According to the *Ethnologue*, Puroik is spoken in 53 villages along the Par River in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Puroik are located from the Upper Subansiri River drainage basin (西巴霞区) to the Tawang River drainage basin (Li 2005).[3] Names include *pɯh √ ɣut ˥* (autonym) and *su ˥ loŋ ˦* (Bangni exonym). There are about 3,000 people as of 2002, who are classified as ethnic Lhoba people by the Chinese government.

Dialects

Lieberherr (2015)[4] consider Puroik to be a dialect chain where geographically distant dialects are mutually unintelligible, whereas dialects located close to each other are mutually intelligible. The internal diversity of Puroik is about equal to that of the Western Kho-Bwa branch.[5] Lieberherr (2015) and Lieberherr & Bodt (2017)[5] list the following dialects of Puroik, provided here in geographical order from east to west.

- **Kurung-Kumey** dialect: spoken in Kurung Kumey district, which is located to the east of Chayangtajo. May be most similar to the Puroik dialect described in Li Daqin (2004) and other Chinese sources.
- **Chayangtajo** dialect: spoken in Sanchu and neighboring villages of Chayangtajo circle, East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh, India by a few hundred speakers.
- **Lasumpatte** dialect: spoken in Lasumpatte village in Seijosa near the Assam border. Most inhabitants have recently migrated from the Chayangtajo area.
- **Sario-Saria** dialect: spoken in three villages by a few hundred speakers.
- **Rawa** dialect: spoken in several villages in and around Rawa by a few hundred speakers (located between Chayangtajo and Kojo-Rojo). Also includes *Poube* village.
- **Kojo-Rojo** dialect: spoken in the villages of Kojo and Rojo, and possibly also in Jarkam village (mutually intelligible with the Puroik dialect spoken in other villages in Lada circle).
- **Bulu** dialect: spoken only in Bulu village by 7–20 speakers.

Classification

Lieberherr & Bodt (2017)[5] classify Puroik as Kho-Bwa, and has traditionally been considered to be a Sino-Tibetan language. There is some mutual intelligibility with Bugun, and Burling (2003) grouped it with Bugun and Sherdukpen, and possibly with Lish and Sartang.

James A. Matisoff (2009)[6] considers Puroik to be a Tibeto-Burman language that has undergone sound changes such as:

- Proto-Tibeto-Burman nasals > voiced stops
- Proto-Tibeto-Burman *-a > -i

Lieberherr (2015)[4] also considers Puroik to be a Tibeto-Burman language, although he notes that it has likely borrowed from non-Tibetan-Burman languages. However, Roger Blench (2011) considers Puroik to be a language isolate.[7]

Grammar

The Sulung grammar notes here have been adapted primarily from Tayeng (1990).[8]

Number

Number is not considered a grammatical feature in Sulung. Plurality is expressed, when required to be stated clearly by the huangda meaning all, many, etc.

Gender

There is no grammatical gender in Sulung. However the two sexes are distinguished when necessary. To indicate other relatives and persons the suffix -aphu is added for the male and -amua for the female. Demonstrative, and Interrogative.

Case

Seven cases may be distinguished: Subject (Nominative), Object (Accusative), Instrumental, Dative (Purposive), Ablative, Possessive (Genitive), and Locative.

Pronoun

The Personal Pronoun distinguished three persons (the first person, second person, and third person) and two numbers (singular and plural). The same form is used for both genders.

Adjective

There are four types of adjectives: adjective of quality, adjective of quantity, demonstrative adjective, interrogative adjective.

Verb

Sulung verbs do not indicate number and person.

Tense

The three principal tenses (present, past, and future), including the indefinite and the continuous are indicated by means of particles used as suffixes.

Moods

There are four moods: Imperative, potential, conditional, and subjunctive. Imperative uses the suffix -bo, -da, and -ge for commands. Potential uses the suffix -pa to express the ability to perform. Conditional uses -re/-hangra to express obligation.

Adverb

Adverbs may be distinguished into four classes: Time, place, manner, and interrogative.

Vocabulary

The following list of 181 words in three Puroik dialects, in addition to Proto-Puroik (the reconstructed proto-language of the Puroik lects), is from Lieberherr (2015: 280–286). Lieberherr (2015)[4] reconstructs Proto-Puroik, drawing data from the *Chayangtajo* dialect and the newly described *Kojo-Rojo* and *Bulu* dialects. Forms from the *Rawa* and *Saria* dialects have also been included.[4]

Gloss	Puroik (Bulu)	Puroik (Kojo-Rojo)	Puroik (Chayangtajo)	Proto-Puroik
1SG (I)	guu	goo	goo	*goo
2SG (you, sg.)	naa	(naŋ)	naa	*naŋ (?)
3SG (he, she)	vɛɛ	wai	wɛɛ	*vai
1PL (we)	(g-rii)	gə-nii	g-rei	*gə-ńei (?)
2PL (you, pl.)	(na-rii)	na-nii	na-rei	*na-ńei (?)
1DU (we two)	gə-se-niʔ/(gə-he-niʔ)	gə-se-nii	gə-sɛ-nii	*gə-se-niʔ (?)
imperfective suffix	-na	-na	-na	*-na
pretemporal	-ryila	-ruila	-ruila	*-ruila
one	[tyi]	[kjuu]	[ɦui]	*?
two	niʔ	(nii)	nii	*niʔ
three	ɨm	ɹɨm	ɯk	*ɨm̃ (?)
four	vii	wɹei	wɹei	*vɹei
five	wuu	woo	wuu	*woo (?)
six	rəʔ	rəʔ	rək	*rək
seven	mə-ljɛɛ	jei	ljɛɛ	*mə-ljai
eight	mə-ljao	jau	(laa)	*mə-ljaa
nine	duNgii	duŋgɹee	doŋgɹɛɛ	*doŋ-gjee (?)
ten	suɛN	ʃuan	suaik	*suañ (?)
above	a-tʃaN	a-tʃjaŋ	a-tʃuaŋ	*a-tʃuaŋ (?)
alive	a-seN	a-sən	a-sik	*a-señ
ant	(dʒamdʒuʔ)	gamgɹuʔ	gɹɛŋgɹo	*gjamgjoʔ
awaken (intr.)	ʒao	ʒau	jaa	*jaa
bamboo (edible)	ma-bjao	mə-bɹau	mə-bɹaa	*ma-bjaa
before	bui	bui	bue	*bui
belly (exterior)	a-ɬyi-buN	ɦui-buŋ	a-ɬue-buk	*a-ɬui-buŋ̃
belly (interior)	a-ɬyi	a-ɦui	a-ɬue	*a-ɬui
bird	pə-duu	pə-doo	pə-dou	*pə-dou (?)
bite	tɔɔ	tua	tua	*tua
bitter	a-tʃaʔ	a-tʃuaʔ	a-tʃjaa	*a-tʃuaʔ (?)
black	a-hjɛN	a-hjeĭ	a-hjɛ̃	*a-hjaĩ
blow	fuu	fuu	(fuk)	*fuu
blue	a-pii	a-pii	a-pii	*a-pii
blood	a-hui	a-fui	a-hue	*a-hui (?)
bone	a-zɛN	a-zan	a-zaik	*a-zañ

bow	lɨɨ	lei	lei	*lei (?)
branch	a-kjɛɛ	hɹɨn-kɹei	hɹeŋ-kɹɛɛ	*kjai
breast (female)	a-njɛɛ	a-njei	a-njɛɛ	*a-njai
breathe	ʒuu	ʒuu	joo	*joo
bridge (not hanging)	ka-tyiN	ka-tun	ka-tuik	*ka-tuñ
brother (younger)	a-nɔɔ	a-nua	anua	*a-nua
burn (transitive)	rii	rii	rii	*rii
can	muɛN	muan	muaiŋ	*muan
cane	rii	rei	rei	*rei
cave	wuʔ	uʔ	oo	*woʔ
chicken	[tʃaʔ]	[takjuu]	[səkuu]	
child	a-dəə	a-doo	a-dou	*a-dou (?)
cloth	ɛʔ	aiʔ	aik (Rawa at)	*at
crazy	a-bjao	a-bɹaa	bɹaa-bo	*abjaa
cry	(tʃɛʔ)	tʃap	tʃjap	*tʃjap (?)
cut (hit with dao)	pɛN	pan	paik	*pañ
cut (without leaving the blade)	iʔ	iʔ	ii	*iʔ
day	a-nii	a-nii	a-rii	*a-ńii
die	ii	ii	ii	*ii
dig	tʃuʔ	tʃuʔ	tʃoo	*tʃoʔ
do/make	[tsaʔ]	[ʒou]	[kaik]	
door	haN-wuiN	ha-wun	tʃuk-wuik	*HOUSE-wuñ
down	buu	buu	buu	*buu
dream	baN	baŋ	bak	*bañ
drink	in	in	[riŋ]	*in
dry	a-wuɛN	a-wuan	a-wuaik	*awuañ
ear	a-kuiN	a-kun	a-kuik	*a-kuñ
eat	tʃii	tʃii	tʃii	*tʃii
extinguish (intr.)	[gɛʔ]	biʔ	bik (Rawa bit)	*bit
existential copula	[wɛɛ]	[wai]	wɛɛ	
eye	a-kəm	a-kəm	a-kək	*a-kə̃m
fall (from a height)	ɬuʔ	huʔ (ɬuʔ)	ɬjok-lo	*ɬuk (?)
fart	waiʔ	wai	wɛɛ	*waiʔ
far	a-tʃoi	a-tʃai	a-tʃjɛɛ	*a-tʃuai (?)
fat/grease	a-ʒɔɔ	a-zjaa	a-zua	*azua (?)

female/mother	a-mɔɔ	a-mua	a-mua	*a-mua
fingernail	(ageʔ gə-sɨn)	gei-sin	geisik	*ge-siñ
fire	bɛɛ	bai	bɛɛ	*bai
firewood	ʃiN	hɹɨn	hɹeŋ	*sjen (?)
fish	[tʃɨi]	[tʃui]	[kahuaŋ]	
flow	nyɛ	nuai	ruɛ	*ńuai
flower	a-buɛN	hɹɨn-buan	mə-buaik	*buañ
food	mə-luɛN	mə-luan	mə-luaik	*mə-luañ
frog	rəʔ	rəʔ	rəə	*rəʔ
fruit	ʃiN-wɛɛ	hɹɨn-wai	roŋ-wɛɛ	*wai
full	ljɛɛ	jei	ljɛɛ	*ljai
full/satiated	mɨŋ	moŋ	moŋ	*moŋ
garlic (*Allium hookeri*)	daN	daŋ	dak	*dañ
ghost	mə-ɬao	mə-hau (mə-ɬau)	mə-ɬaa	*mə-ɬaa
give	taN	taŋ	taŋ	*taŋ
green	a-rjɛɛ	a-rjei	a-rjɛɛ	*a-rjai
guts	a-ɬyi-rin	a-hui-rin	a-ɬue-riŋ	*a-ɬui-rin
hair (on body)	a-mɨn	a-mən	a-muiŋ	*a-mun
hair (on head)	kə-zaN	(kə-zjaŋ)	kə-zak	*kə-zañ
hand/arm	a-geʔ	a-geiʔ	a-geik (Rawa gət)	*a-gət
head	a-kuN	a-kuŋ-bəə	a-kok-bəə	*akoŋ
heart	a-luN-bəə	a-luŋ-bəə	a-lok-bəə	*a-loŋ-bəə
hold in mouth	mom	?	mom	*mom
husband	a-wui	a-wui	a-wue	*a-wui
ill/sick	naN	naŋ	raŋ	*ńaŋ
itch	ɔɔ	a-wua	a-wua	*a-wua
kill	[wɛʔ]	aiʔ	aik (Rawa at)	*at
knife (machete)	tʃii	tʃee	tʃee	*tʃee (?)
know	dɛN	dan	daik	*dañ
leaf	a-ləp	(hɹɨn-jəp)	a-lək	*ljəp
leech	[pa-]wɛʔ	[pə-]waiʔ	ka-waik (Rawa pəwat)	*ka-wat
left side	pa-fii	pua-fii	pua-fee	*puafee (?)
leg	a-lɛɛ	a-lai	a-lɛɛ	*lai
lick	ljaʔ	jaa	vjaa	*?
light	a-tɔɔ	a-tua	a-tua	*a-tua

listen	nɨŋ	nuŋ	roŋ	*ńoŋ
liver	a-pjiN	a-pjin	a-pjik	*a-pjiñ
long	a-pjaN	a-pɻaŋ	a-pɻaŋ	*a-pjaŋ
louse (head)	[ʃiʔ]	[hɻɛ̃]	[pɻɛɛ]	*?
male/father	a-pɔɔ	a-pua	a-pua	*apua
man	a-fuu	a-foo	a-fuu	*a-fuu (?)
marrow	(a-ɬyiN)	a-hin	a-ɬiŋ	*a-ɬin
meat	[ʃii]	[mai]	[mərjek]	*?
monkey (macaque)	[məraŋ]	[səduŋ]	[məzii]	
mortar	sətsəm	tʃuŋtʃəm	tʃjuŋtʃək	*tʃuŋ-tʃə̃m
mouth	a-səm	a-səm	a-sək	*a-sə̃m
mushroom	mɨŋ	məŋ	məŋ	*məŋ
mute/stupid	bloʔ	bloʔ	blok	*blok
name	a-bjɛN	a-bɻɛn	a-bɻɛŋ	*a-bjɛn
near	a-nyi	a-nui	a-nui	*a-nui (?)
neck	kə-tuN-rin	tuŋ-rin	kə-tuŋ	*kə-tuŋ
negation	ba-	ba-	ba-	*ba-
new (of things)	a-fɛN	a-fan	a-faik	*a-fañ
night/dark	a-tʃeN	a-tʃen	a-tʃik	*a-tʃeñ (?)
nose	a-puŋ	a-puŋ	a-pok	*a-poŋ̃
old (of things)	a-tsɛN	a-tʃjen	a-tʃaik	*a-tʃjañ
path	lim	lim	lik (Saria dialect)	*lĩm̃
penis	a-lɔʔ	a-luaʔ	a-lua	*a-luaʔ
person	[prin]	bii	bii	*bii
pig	[waʔ]	[dui]	[mədou]	*?
pillow	ka-kəm	koŋ-kəm	ko-kəm	*koŋ̃ -kəm (?)
Puroik	(prin-dəə)	purun	puruik	*puruñ
pull	ryi	rui	rue	*rui
quiver	zəp	zəp	zək	*zəp
ripe	a-min	a-min	a-miŋ	*a-min
rot	ʃam	hɻam	hjap	*sjam̃ (?)
run	rin	ren	rik	*riñ
sago flour	bii	bee-mo	bee	*bee (?)
sago club (tool)	waN	waŋ	wak	*waŋ̃
sago pick (front part)	kjuʔ	kɻuʔ	kɻok	*kjok

scratch	bjuʔ	bɻuʔ	bɻoo	*bjoʔ
sew	pin	pin	piŋ	*pin
shade	a-ɬim	a-him	a-ɬəp	*a-ɬim̃ (?)
shelf (over fireplace)	rap	rap	rak	*rap
shoulder	pa-tɨŋ	pua-tuŋ	pua-tok	*pua-toŋ̃
shy	bii-wɛN	bii-wan	bii-waik	*biiwañ
sit	[rɨɨ]	[dʒao]	[tuŋ]	
skin	a-kuʔ	a-kɨʔ	a-kəə	*a-kuʔ (?)
sky	ha-mɨŋ	məŋ	kə-məŋ	*ha/kə-məŋ
sleep	rəm	rəm	rəm	*rəm
sleepy	rəm-bin	rəm-bin	rəm-biŋ	*rəm-bin
smell	nam	nam	naŋ	*nam
smoke	bɛ-kɨɨ	bai-kəə	bɛɛ-kɨɨ	*baikɨɨ (?)
son-in-law	a-bɔʔ	buaʔ	a-bua	*buaʔ
stand	tʃin	tʃin	tʃiŋ	*tʃin
star	[haNwaiʔ]	[hadaŋ]	[ħagaik]	
stone	ka-lɨŋ	ka-huŋ (ka-ɬuŋ)	[kəbɻaa]	*ka-ɬuŋ (?)
sun	hamii	hamii	krii	*PFX-ńii
sweet	a-pin	a-pin	a-piŋ	*a-pin
swell	pən	pən	pəik	*pəñ
taro	tʃjaʔ	tʃjaʔ	tʃua	*tʃuaʔ
tasty/savory	(a-jim)	a-rjem	a-rjep	*a-rjem̃
that	tɛɛ	tai	tɛɛ	*tai
thick (book)	a-pən	a-pən	a-pik	*apəñ (?)
thin (book)	a-tsap	(a-tʃjam)	a-tʃap	*a-tʃjam̃
this	hɨŋ	həŋ	həŋ	*həŋ
tongue	a-lyi	jui	(a-rue)	*a-lui (?)
tooth	kə-tɔN	tuaŋ	kə-tuaŋ	*kə-tuaŋ
thorn	mə-zuN	mə-ʒuŋ	kə-zjoŋ	*mə/kə-zoŋ
up	kuN	kuŋ	kuŋ	*kuŋ
***Urtica* fibres**	ʃaN	hɻaŋ	hɻak	*sjañ
vomit	muɛʔ	muai	muɛ	*muaiʔ
war	mɔʔ	muaʔ	mua	*muaʔ
warm	a-ləm	a-ləm	a-ləp	*a-ləm̃
water	kɔɔ	kua	kua	*kua

weave (on loom)	ɛʔ-rɔʔ	ai-ruaʔ	aikrua	*at-ruaʔ
wet	a-ʃam	a-hɻam	a-hjap	*a-hjam̃ (?)
what	hɛɛ	hai	[hii]	
white	a-rjuN	a-rjuŋ	a-rjuŋ	*a-rjuŋ
wife	a-ʒuu	a-zjoo	a-zou	*a-zjoo (?)
wing	a-ʒuiN	a-ʒun	a-juik	*a-juñ
woman	[məruu]	a-mui	a-mui	*a-mui

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External links

- Puroik Language (http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/5429)
- Resources Tab (http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/5429/guide/8506) (Sulung phrasebook)
- Text Sulung Good News Christina Story (http://globalrecordings.net/en/script/en/395) (text)
- Audio Sulung Good News Christian Story (http://globalrecordings.net/en/goodnews) (audio)